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*Testimony of Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association*

Public Hearing Subject Matter	Support/ Oppose
HOUSE RESOLUTION FOR ROBERT J. KLEE TO BE COMMISSIONER OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	Strongly Support

On behalf of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA), I want to thank Co-Chairs Duff and Janowski and Governor Malloy for nominating Robert Klee to serve as Commissioner for the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). CFPA strongly supports Commissioner Klee's nomination.

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) is the first conservation organization established in Connecticut in 1895. For 120 years, CFPA has offered testimony before the General Assembly on sustainable forestry, state parks and forests, trail recreation, natural resource protection, and land conservation issues.

DEEP is Connecticut's primary environmental agency and is essential for its outstanding programs and people who conserve our State's public forests, parks, wildlife management areas, trails, and open spaces; for its programs and people who are dedicated to protecting our State's air and water; for the programs and people who regulate the management of our State's waste and the rejuvenation of brownfields; and for the programs and people who regulate our State's energy resources and infrastructure. It may seem like an overstatement, but we literally owe the quality of our lives to DEEP.

At CFPA, we have seen Commissioner Klee in action in many different forums, we have seen the high regard in which he is held by his employees and members of the conservation community, and we believe strongly that he is the right person for this job!

CFPA strongly supports Commissioner Klee's nomination and would be glad to respond to any questions you may have about our enthusiastic support.